

**DRAFT Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
November 18, 2016 SCC – Continuing Education Building, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Council Members Present: Mike Adams, Laura Arp, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Julie Docter, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Stephanie Knust, Dawn Mollenkopt, Dawn Murphy, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

Council Members Absent: Susan Adams, Jamie Thavenet, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Sen. Kolowski, Joan Luebbers, Cathy Mohnike, Christina Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich

Also in attendance: Council Staff: Karen Hoffman; Facilitator: Eleanor Shirley; Technical Assistants: Jennifer Auman, Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Lauri Cimino, Stacy Frank, Cole Johnson, Connie, Shockley, Kim Texel, Becky Veak, Staci Zuierlein; Presenters: Ron Azoulay, Jen Gerdes, Lisa Knoche

Welcome

ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, convened the meeting at 9:00a.m., welcoming all those present. Brief introductions were made around the room. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available by the door.

Approval of August 19 meeting minutes

Motion was made and seconded by Melody Hobson and Kathy Zadina, respectively, to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2016, meeting as presented.

VOTE:

Aye – M. Adams, Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Hobson, Mollenkopf, Murphy, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina

Nay – none

Abstain – Kluver, Knust

Absent – S. Adams, Arp, Holys, Jones-Jobst, Kolowski, Luebbers, Mohnike, Pelton, Rother, Thavenet, Ulrich

The motion passed.

Child Care Market Rate Survey

Nicole Vint/Lisa Knoche

Nicole Vint, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrator, and Lisa Knoche, with the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools, shared that this survey is paid for by block grant, and is required by statute. It had been require every two years, and will now be completed every three and include questions to collect more specific information and garner a wider representation. The survey was developed through a contract with UNL and utilized key stakeholders. It will initially be emailed statewide to all licensed childcare providers, and will have a web-based format, and include follow-up after two weeks. The required report is due early in 2017.

It was asked if there was survey support for non-English speaking people. There is a phone number people can use, and the point was well-taken for future surveys. Another question was about completing the survey without a computer. These instances will trigger a follow-up phone call with assistance to complete the survey.

Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization

Nicole Vint

Nicole shared some updated information about the state plan, including some income and other changes to requirements that will, hopefully, better align all programs to be more family and user friendly, while providing continuity of care for children. A recent public hearing took place and the Attorney General has approved the changes, so the hope is that updated regulations will be fully implemented in December or January. Other work includes statewide disaster plan development with stakeholder group input, billing protocols, changing responsibility for background checks, first aid and CPR training, and childcare authorizations during school breaks. The group thanked Nicole for her proactive work and advocacy.

Head Start Child Care Partnerships

Dawn Murphy & Stephanie Knust

There is lots going on with Head Start. Dawn and Stephanie shared an update about Head Start grants being applied for, and how they are working towards meeting new performance standards resulting from the reauthorization of the Federal Head Start Law. New requirements involve financial responsibility for fingerprinting and background checks, number of hours a center must be open, and reflective practice and supervision. Will align Head Start standards with Child Care standards.

Public Comment

Eleanor opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Progress on 2014 Recommendations

Melody Hobson

Melody reminded the group that while we've been preparing the most recent bi-annual report to the Governor, the 2014 Recommendations are actively in process. The group received handouts and heard an update from Lynne Brehm and Teresa Berube about the Pyramid Model and how it addresses part of the Professional Development portion of the 2014 Recommendations. The Nebraska Early Childhood Pyramid Model 2015-2016 Annual Evaluation Report was shared. The Pyramid Leadership group is currently gathering input on how best to proceed with next steps; teams are being chosen for Spring 2017.

Circle of Security

Jen Gerdes, NCFE

(Hand out: parent brochure)

Jen Gerdes, Assistant Vice President, Early Childhood Mental Health, at Nebraska Children & Families Foundation, shared a power point presentation and handout about Circle of Security (COS) which is based on attachment theory and building a strong parent/child relationship. While it can occur with adults in various roles of a child's world, COS focuses on responding to children's needs and various emotions in appropriate ways. Nebraska has coordinated training for a number of facilitators in the 8-week classes in which groups are kept small, to about 10 families. Data shows that parents like the class and report a reduction in parent-related stress. The next class for new facilitators will be in May 2017. Funding sources vary and can include an option to provide childcare. A question was asked about addressing children with special needs; Amy Bunnell shared that some EDN early interventionists could possibly address some of those needs.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan

Ron Azoulay, NDE Contractor

Melody Hobson introduced Ron Azoulay, who is under NDE contract and working with Matt Heusman from NDE Accreditation & School Improvement to conduct stakeholder engagement regarding the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, or NCLB, which is known as the ESSA, or Every Student Succeeds Act, State Plan. This is where all the title funds come together for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and involves a number of submission dates. The plan due date to the federal government is July 3, 2017, with a public draft to be made available in mid-March. Final federal regulations are to be released by the end of 2016.

Ron shared that the process includes reviewing the tenants of AQuESST and that the State Board is working on a ten-year plan. The Nebraska ESSA website is: <https://www.education.ne.gov/ESSA/index.html> and includes a list of resources. The Council was encouraged to email input. A draft will go to the State Board on March 3, 2017, following a statewide "listening tour" in January/February which is in the planning stages. Details to be posted online so watch the website for those dates. A question was asked about the purpose of the ESSA dollars, and a draft of the federal implementation document, which compares ESSA to NCLB, was shared. The document can also be found online.

While there aren't a lot of dollars in the plan, there will be recommendations about how to make the best use of them. Emily Kluever reminded the group about an approaching December due date that requires schools to enroll children in foster care without supporting documents and provide transportation. She asked how the advisory team is working on those components. Ron said that NDE contractor, Michele Borg, is working with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to lead that piece and will provide input to the writing team.

Ron encouraged the group to email them about any input they are hearing so they can gather as much information as they can.

Part C Updates

Amy Bunnell/Julie Doctor

Amy and Julie provided an update on the 2015-16 data regarding the eight Part C indicators that will be given to the federal government in February, 2017. Part C uses a variety of data sources to report on two indicators: compliance and performance. Nebraska is seeing some improvement in appropriate behaviors that can be attributed to programs such as Pyramid Model, Rooted in Relationships, and Circle of Security. The annual Part C Family Survey had a 76% return rate and had high numbers of families stating they know their rights. A question was asked about question content, and whether there can be examples provided. Nebraska works closely with a national resource group that develops the survey using multiple data sources. But the question can certainly be asked.

Amy shared that the Nebraska Part C determination will come out in June, 2017; in 2016 year Nebraska received “meets requirements.”

In order to submit this report, Amy requested that Mike Adams, as the ICC chair, sign off on the Part C report, which will need to go to a vote. Motion made by Hobson and seconded by Mollenkopf to allow the Council Chair to sign the ICC Chair report.

VOTE:

Aye – M. Adams, Berube, Bowen, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Mollenkopf, Murphy, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina

Nay – none

Abstain – Bunnell, Doctor

Absent – S. Adams, Arp, Holys, Jones-Jobst, Kolowski, Luebbers, Mohnike, Pelton, Rother, Thavenet, Ulrich

The motion passed.

Working Lunch

ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, lead a discussion regarding the Family Story, it's history, and whether the Council would like to bring it back as a regular agenda item. Reminders were shared that there can be a funding impact on the Council when guests attend/present, as well as that there will be new parents coming onto the Council in the future who could be tapped. If the Council chooses to bring back the Family Story, it needs to not only be purposeful and inclusive of the families that Council members and TAs represent, but have clarity about what funding source will pay for it. Perhaps sub-groups could sponsor families. Video-taping families sharing their story was another idea.

Open discussion was had and many points made. It takes time to seek out a family, shepherd them through the preparation process leading up to them attending and presenting at the meeting. PTI has created a guidance to help prepare families to share their story.

After a show of hands revealed the group would like to see it brought back, ECICC Chair, Mike Adams, appointed Melody Hobson, Connie Shockley, and Tammy Stevenson to meet via conference calls to create a framework and questions for the Family Story to adhere to. The Steering Committee could look at the agenda and consider programs being presented and ask respective speakers to work with the related Council member to help find a family. The group of three will proceed and provide an update before the next Steering Committee call.

Reimbursements and Meeting Attendance

Karen went over expense reimbursement including lodging, expenses, meals and other expenses. For those needing hotel accommodations, a reminder was given that advance cancellation is required or else the individual will be responsible for the room cost. Karen also requested timely RSVPs in order to ensure accurate counts for lunch and materials preparation.

Eleanor presented a power point entitled “Effective Meeting Practices” that included some ground rules for being a productive and contributing member of the Council.

Council Membership & Vacancies Update

Melody confirmed that there has not yet been Governor appointments made. She reviewed the listing of applicants thus far, and encouraged the Council to reach out to people who might be a good fit. A question was asked about reimbursements for those attending when it means missing work and losing income. As it now stands, per statute, reimbursement is available only for parents.

A number of posts need to be filled or re-appointed and including some parents, an ESU representative, a higher education representative, a number service providers, and a physician. The group was encouraged to actively recruit on behalf of the Council.

Updating By-Laws & Operating Procedures

The By-Laws and Operating Procedures need to be updated due to the Council deciding that standing committees had met their goals and were no longer needed. The resulting updates will be fairly straightforward. The group was asked if there were other tweaks to make to the By-Laws or Operating Procedures; none were given. Because a committee is needed to review and recommend revisions, and it had been previously discussed that the Steering Committee would remain in place until an alternate plan is created. Will need some assistance with this task.

Recommended changes were reviewed by the group, will be discussed and recorded at the next Steering Committee meeting, then presented at the February 17th meeting.

The Council discussed the need for a limited timed task force to make the revisions which will be presented to the full Council for approval. During discussion Amy clarified the role of the Steering Committee. Chairperson, Mike Adams, appointed Council members Amy Bunnell, Steph Knust, and Laura Arp to the task force. TA, Kim Texel, and ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, will also assist.

Governor's Report Update

Becky Veak/Eleanor Shirley

Becky Veak shared that the body of the report is written around the four main recommendations being made to the Governor, with the intention of brevity and setting the stage for the Governor and Legislature to review. The goal today was to approve the draft of the Governor's report, discuss any additional, recommended revisions, and next steps. Comments have been provided over the past few months and incorporated by Becky and her team, with thanks from the Council. The Appendix provides resources and links for more in-depth content and information. Eleanor encouraged the group to take the hard copy that was provided at the meeting and read through it one last time. Regarding a due date to the Governor, there is no hard date, however a public hearing must occur first and the goal will be to have it within the first two weeks of January. Melody volunteered to represent the Council at the hearing. Once the Council provides its final approval at the February meeting, the Chair and staff will contact the Governor's office to schedule a date and time to present the Report.

A motion was made by Julie Docter and seconded by Melody Hobson to approve the draft of the Governor's report. Discussion included direction for the Council to send any additional comments to Karen within ten days in order to be added. Once made, it will be sent back out to the Council for review. There was no longer a quorum since some voting members had left, so the motion passed by general consensus.

Legislative Update- LB889 – established Level 1

Becky Veak/Lauri Cimino

Becky shared an update about LB889 which passed in 2016 and created two childcare tax credits. It will sunset in five years and has a \$5 million dollar cap for 2017.

Lauri Cimino shared a draft handout of a classification chart of employees of eligible programs. The task is to create a process for how individuals qualify for, and apply to, receive the refundable tax credit.

February meeting agenda

Suggested items for the February meeting were as follows:

- Final approval of Governor's Biennial report;
- ESSA update and how the implementation of the required December provisions is going;
- Update on ECIDS;
- Discuss the challenge with maintaining a quorum during the needed voting portion on the meeting. Consider strategic placement of voting items within the agenda to accommodate people who must arrive late or leave early.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amy Bunnell and seconded by Dawn Mollenkopf, and the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:27pm. **The next meeting is Friday, February 17, 2017, at the Lincoln Campus, 84th & O street, room V03.**

Upcoming Scheduled ECICC Meeting Dates:

- February 17, 2017
- May 5, 2017
- August 18, 2017
- November 17, 2017

Handouts & elements available on GoogleDrive:

- Agenda for November 18, 2016
- Minutes from August 17, 2016
- NDE Nebraska Early Childhood Pyramid Model 2015-16 Evaluation Report ppt
- Current Nebraska Pyramid Implementation Sites map
- Nebraska IDEA Part C APR Overview FFY 2015 ppt & comparison chart
- Cohort 1 Communities – Rooted in Relationships
- 2016 ECICC Report to the Governor
- ECICC Operating Procedures ppt
- Effective Meeting Practices ppt
- Circle of Security Parenting Highlights ppt